

REMARKS

By the above amendment, the status of the parent application has been updated, informalities in the specification have been corrected while setting forth features of the invention as illustrated in Fig. 11. In particular, by the present amendment, the specification at page 16 has been amended to clarify the operation of the data collector 2 in relation to the data processor 21 and the storage change condition setting device 23 in accordance with the illustration of Fig. 11 and the description thereof and new dependent claim 20 now recites the feature of the selecting device as represented by the data collector 2 having the data processor 21 and the storage change condition setting device 23 therein. Further, by the present amendment claims 18 and 19, which stand withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention, have been canceled without prejudice to the right to file a divisional application directed thereto. Additionally, a new dependent claim 20 has been presented reciting further features of the present invention.

The rejection of claims 11 - 17 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement and the rejection of claims 11 - 117(sic) under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement, are traversed, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

At the outset, while the Examiner refers to the embodiment shown in Fig. 10, in setting forth the Examiner's reasons for the rejection under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, applicants submit that claims 11 - 17 are directed to the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 11 of the drawings of this application and described at page 15, line 7 et. seq. of the specification of this application, it being noted that as described in the specification, features of different illustrated embodiment can be utilized together.

In any event, as illustrated in Fig. 11 and as described in the paragraph beginning at line 7, the embodiment of Figure 11 includes external databases 22a and 22b disposed at positions outside the data collector 2, and applicants submit that the external storage 22a and the external storage 22b represent first and second data storing devices; as recited in claim 11, and which receive, as illustrated in Fig. 11, for example, process data generated by the sensors which are coupled to the etching chambers 11 and 12 of the etching system 1 in which respective etching chambers a sample wafer as a processing object is processed, as described in connection with other embodiments of this application. As indicated at page 15, lines 10 - 16 of the specification "The data collector 2 stores collected data in either one of the external storages 22a and 22b according to a storage change condition set by a data storage change condition setting semiconductor device 23." Thus, the data controller 2 via the data processor 21 in response to the storage change condition setting device 23, selectively sends process data to either storage 22a or storage 22b. As described in the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 9 of the specification, the storage change condition may be automatically be set according to the capacity of the external storage or the user can set the condition. For example, the storage change condition may be specified by information of "day and time" or information for a periodic specification or a point of time when samples of a specified number of lots are completely processed. By the present amendment, this paragraph as been amended to recite that "As shown in Fig. 11, after the storage change condition, which is set by the storage change condition setting device 23, is fulfilled, the data collector via the data processor 21 thereof starts to store the database into another storage so that the storage for which the storing operation is finished is released from updating tasks." Thus, it is apparent that the data processor 21 of the data

collector 2, in response to the storage change condition setting device 23 of the data collector 2, sends the process data from at least one of the chambers 11 and 12 to either the storage device 22a or the storage 22b, and applicants submit that the features of independent claim 11 and the dependent claims thereof are in compliance with 35 USC 112, first paragraph with respect to the written description requirement and enablement requirement.

Moreover, irrespective of the Examiner's reference to Fig. 10 in the rejections, it is apparent that the claims do not recite the feature of a single etching chamber, but rather a chamber in which a sample wafer as a processing object is processed, which is represented by chamber 11 or chamber 12 in Fig. 11, and from which information of chamber 11 and/or chamber 12 is supplied to the data collector 2 and the data processor 21 thereof. As such, applicants submit that the rejection of claims 11 - 17 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, should be overcome.

With regard to the drawing objections, as is apparent, Figure 11 illustrates the claimed features of claim 11 and therewith the dependent claims, and applicants submit that further illustration is unnecessary. Accordingly, the drawing objection should be overcome.

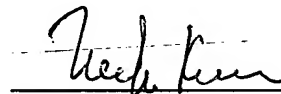
For the foregoing reasons, applicants submit that this application including claims 11 - 17 and 20 are in compliance with the drawing requirements as well as written description and enablement requirements of 35 USC 112, first paragraph.

Since applicants submit that the only rejection of the claims has been overcome, applicants submit that this application should now be in condition for allowance and issuance of an action of favorable nature is courteously solicited.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 500.41371VX1), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP



Melvin Kraus
Registration No. 22,466

MK/jla
(703) 312-6600